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(12) **United States Patent**
Obradovich

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(54) **TECHNIQUE FOR OPERATING A VEHICLE EFFECTIVELY AND SAFELY**

701/70; 340/426.31, 465, 575, 576;
180/272

See application file for complete search history.

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 104 days.

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EP 0771686 5/1997

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 11/837,393, filed on Aug. 10, 2007, now Pat. No. 7,902,969, which is a continuation of application No. 11/226,513, filed on Sep. 13, 2005, now Pat. No. 7,417,531, which is a continuation of application No. 10/380,449, filed as application No. PCT/US01/29425 on Sep. 20, 2001, now Pat. No. 6,982,635.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A control system is employed in a vehicle to assist a user to operate the vehicle effectively and safely. In accordance with the invention, the system provides driving assistance to the user by taking into account the user's physical condition, the vehicle condition and the surrounding conditions. The surrounding conditions include, e.g., road, weather and traffic conditions, external to the vehicle. The vehicle condition concerns the conditions of the brakes, steering, tires, radiator, etc. of the vehicle. Signs of fatigue, stress and illness of the user are monitored by the control system to assess the user's physical condition.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 7/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **701/36; 701/1; 701/45; 340/540; 340/575; 340/576; 180/272**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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34 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets

